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CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY EXPELS  
MEMBERS OF LANDLORD-FAMILY ORIGIN

Regular members of the Chinese Communist Party, who have been born and reared in landlord families, are being expelled from the party in cases where they have not remolded their ideology properly. This report cites examples of members being expelled for mistakes said to have originated in their non-proletarian backgrounds and to have been perpetuated by superficial thought reform.

Seven examples of members expelled or recommended for expulsion follow:

1. "Yu Ming-ch'uan, age 36, is a native of Lin-t'an Ts'un in Nan-ling Hsien, Anhwei. Yu, born and reared in a landlord family, became a teacher and, after joining the CCP in March 1948, rose to the position of Associate Professor, Western Languages Department, Peiping University; and director, Staff Office, Peiping Municipal Committee, China Educational Workers Union.

"Although appearing to participate sincerely in party activity, Yu actually sympathized with and shielded his landlord, counterrevolutionary family and, during the great movements for agrarian reform and suppression of counterrevolutionaries, destroyed the fighting elan of the masses.

"Furthermore, Yu's elder brother, Yu Ting-ch'uan, was the despotic landlord and counterrevolutionary in Nan-ling Hsien who held the posts of Standing Member, Party Hsien Department, KMT; chairman, Committee to Suppress Disorder and Reconstruct the Nation; and member, Ta Shen Kung-ssu, a special KMT business agency....These posts were held for many years. He killed from 70 to 80 of our cadres and citizens and, after the liberation of Nan-ling Hsien, disrupted the local land-reform movement. In December 1950, he was arrested and summarily executed by the people's government."

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There follows a detailed account of the ruses employed by the younger Yu to free his brother who was accused of being "a landed criminal endowed with an abundance of agricultural equipment and a brick house." The CCP Inspection Committee concluded that:

"On all issues Yu Ming-ch'uan stands with the landlord class....This open support of a landlord and counterrevolutionary stirred up fear among the Nan-ling populace and destroyed faith and confidence in the party: a clear indication that Yu Ming-ch'uan, who infiltrated party ranks, belongs to that category of heterodox social elements who become individualists.

"To insure strict party discipline and guarantee purity of party ranks, it has been decided to drop Yu Ming-ch'uan from the party register.

Disciplinary Inspection Committee  
Peiping Municipal Party Committee, CCP  
11 October 1951"

In a confession which appeared in the same issue of the Peiping organ, Yu confirms the implications of the charge that his landlord family origin impeded his ideological reformation, that it threatened party stability, and that expulsion from the party would enhance party solidarity. Part of the text follows:

"In the campaign against corruption, waste, and bureaucracy, I lost my party orientation, shielded a counterrevolutionary, disrupted land-reform activity, and inflicted incalculable injury on party, state, and people. But of more importance is the fact that the party had patiently trained me, and I, unable fully to comprehend my errors, employed incorrect arguments in self-defense. The source of this series of grave mistakes lies in my thinking; I had not sincerely entered party activity, but remained mired in the ideology of the landlord and petit bourgeois classes.

"I was born and reared in a landlord family and received a long-term feudal and bourgeois education. Although at the age of 10 years I had come in contact with the revolution, I was not properly instructed and had no true grasp of revolutionary action. My sympathy for the toiling class was superficial and definitely not deep-seated. My hatred for the fleecing class was similarly superficial and definitely not deep-seated.

"After joining the party in 1948, I failed to carry my thoughts through a full ideological investigation to purge completely that which was reactionary and incorrect among them. When the interests of the revolution clashed with mine, my orientation began to waver and my perspective became clouded. I soon lost my party orientation and was led to harbor a counterrevolutionary..... The party has been loving and benevolent. Comrades Liu Jen and Sung Shih again awakened me and stimulated my consciousness, but because my orientation was originally and basically landlord and counterrevolutionary I, bereft of all vestiges of organizational discipline and enormous in my conceit, was loathe to expose my mistakes and to confess fully the errors of conduct and action....

"These errors resulted in grave injury to the party. Of paramount importance was the vile impression, left with the Nan-ling populace, which caused the peasantry to doubt and mistrust the party and the people's government. Second, the confidence of local cadres was impaired, so that when problems arose for disposition they pailed in their arms and legs like turtles. Third, I delayed the execution of a counterrevolutionary. Fourth, I caused considerable trouble to party members on the various levels. Fifth, I adversely affected the work of municipal educators in the labor union....

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"In a word, the reasons for and origins of such serious sins may be put to my dense landlord consciousness and feudal emotions, to innumerable petty bourgeois habits, conceit, and lack of self-discipline. These ingrained defects led me to defend myself in an individualistic manner. I failed to subordinate personal interests to those of the party and the people, but desired the interests of both to be subordinated to mine.

"These reactionary and erroneous concepts greatly impeded my progress and prevented me from becoming a true party member. Although I constantly examined my shortcomings, there was no strict and complete treatment of them -- no penetrating confession...The severe punishment given me by the party has not only purified the party, but also has given me a profound lesson. I am determined to study with humility, constantly to be alert and attentive to introspection, to stand firm and true on party orientation, to work with zeal, and to make amends for the damage inflicted upon the party and the people."

Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, Party Life Section, 1 Dec 51

2. "Tseng Kuang (assumed name Tsen Hsiang-kuang); age 39, is a native of Chi-yang Hsien, Kwangtung. Tseng, born and reared in a landlord family, participated in the revolution in 1936 and joined the party in 1937. He held the following posts: secretary of a local Branch, CCP; chief of an Organization Section in a Hsien Party Committee; Political Commissar, Han River Column; and Commissioner, Special Administrative Office, Swatow.

"Tseng committed the following crimes...despite long-term indoctrination by the party: (a) protection of landlords and opposition to peasant movement, (b) complicity with counterrevolutionaries, (c) dissent from the class struggle, (d) hiring of personnel of dubious origins (thereby marring the purity of party organs), and (e) violation of party discipline and state laws....Therefore, to tighten party discipline, maintain close ties with the masses, purify the ranks, stabilize party organs, and educate the party and the masses, the Disciplinary Inspection Committee has decided to expel Tseng Kuang from the party and apply to the government that he be relieved of all posts."

(Canton, Nan-fang Jih-pao, 19 Jan 52)

3. "Li Wen-fu...born and reared in a landlord family...arrested 12 persons in an audience at the Cheng-chou Municipal Workers' Theater without due provocation. In this act, Li was despotic and violated personal rights...in his feudal manner.

"To enforce iron discipline in the party, the Honan Provincial Committee, CCP has decided to propose to the Central-South Bureau, Central Committee, CCP, that Li Wen-fu be expelled from the party. An order to dismiss him from all posts and apply punishment in accordance with law has been forwarded to the respective provincial and municipal people's governments and to various revolutionary organizations.

"The Provincial Committee calls upon all party members at every level of the party apparatus in Honan to take a lesson from the errors of the despotic Li Wen-fu. It is imperative that Article 2 of the CCP Constitution 'All party members must observe discipline of the revolutionary State and revolutionary organs' be complied with; and that Item 8, Article 7 'Party members are the diligent servants of the people, not the cruel patriarchs of the people as in the old society' be obeyed. Authoritarians and feudal despots of Li's type must be expelled."

(Hankov, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 18 Feb 52)

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4. "Tai Chi-ying, formerly member, Honan Provincial Committee, concurrently chairman, K'ai-feng Municipal Committee, CCP, is a native of Huang-an Hsien, Hupeh. Tai, age 45, was born and reared in a landlord family; he was a student. He entered the Chinese Communist Youth Corps in 1926, and, in 1927, graduated to become a member of the CCP.

"Tai Chi-ying participated in the revolutionary struggle for over 20 years. Several times during the revolutionary struggle, he acquitted himself in a manner beneficial to the party and the people. He had contributed notably. Although Tai had participated in the revolution for a very long time, the original essence of his landlord and petit bourgeois ideology, dominated by motives of personal interest and the concept of individualism, remained inextricable. It was impossible for him to reform fully. His history, therefore, reveals an uninterrupted series of heterodox acts which both disrupted unity and demonstrated clearly his inherent individualism and opposition to leadership. Tai was led to serious transgressions of basic principles. In particular, after being appointed secretary of the K'ai-feng Municipal Committee, CCP, his errors reached extremes.

"To enforce iron discipline among the ranks, purify party organizations, and raise party fighting potential, the Honan Provincial Committee, CCP, has decided to drop Tai Chi-ying from the party register pending approval from the Central-South Bureau and the Central Committee, CCP. The Provincial Committee has also recommended to the Honan Provincial and K'ai-feng Municipal People's Governments, and to all revolutionary organizations, that Tai be relieved of all posts. The Provincial Committee calls upon party committees and members on all levels in K'ai-feng and Honan to take a lesson from the errors of Tai Chi-ying and thoroughly expunge his type of thinking."

(Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 18 Feb 52)

5. "Li Chien-hua, second deputy director, Labor Department, East China MAC...was born and reared in a landlord family. Li joined the CCP in 1934 and was, for a long period of time, a worker in our underground in KMT occupied territory. After V-J Day, he was directed by the party to work in the reactionary KMT regime and became deputy director, Bureau of Social Affairs, Shanghai. This was primarily directed at protecting the interests of the working class. However, he abused his position and colluded with KMT brigands: he received bribes....

"Li's line of demarcation between the enemy and the party was obliterated. He had completely lost his party orientation when he protected his family (landlord class) and shielded his brother, a counterrevolutionary. To protect his father, a landlord, Li requested that the Party Branch Headquarters issue his parent a membership letter. The Branch refused....

"Li Chien-hua...refused to confess to these crimes and prevented others from making confessions...When the party convoked a cadre meeting (10 March 1952), Li considered by all to be a corrupt and decadent counterrevolutionary who had lost forever the qualifications of a CCP member. It was recommended to a higher-level committee that he be dropped from the party register and relieved of all official responsibilities within and outside of the party."

(Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 11 Mar 52)

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6. "Yu Yi-ch'un, director, East China Press and Publications Bureau and managing director, Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao, whose party membership had been restored in 1938, maintained close relations with the landlord class....

"In the winter of 1950, at the height of the agrarian reform campaign south of the Yangtze River, Yun, upon learning that his sister, Yun Ch'ing-feng, a landlord, had been denounced by the local peasantry, wrote, in his private capacity and without permission of the party organ, to the East China Agrarian Reform Committee on the case. Yun said that the struggle against his sister was purely 'retaliative' and requested the party to answer the just action of the peasants with 'corrective education'. He also voiced his objection in a personal letter to Ch'en P'ei-hsien, secretary, South Kiangsu Committee, CCP.... holding that as a widow, his sister was not a landlord and the rural cadres were 'bad elements'. Upon the investigation of the East China Agrarian Reform Committee and the Chang-chou District Committee, CCP, it was established that Yun Ch'ing-feng was a landlord....

"Due to his long, intricate ties with the old decadent society, Yun has never really undertaken to reform or draw a line between the enemy and the party.... Party members and personnel of the paper Shanghai Chieh-fang Jih-pao have requested that a higher-level committee of the CCP immediately subject him to drastic action."

(Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 13 Mar 52)

7. "Chou Li-hsing, director, Religious Affairs Department, Culture and Education Committee, East China Military and Administrative Committee, joined the CCP in 1938.... and for the past 10 years has, under party leadership, contributed his part to the people's revolution.... However, because he was born and raised in a family of the landlord class, he was greatly corroded by the thought of the old society.... He became bureaucratic and self-complacent....

"Chou's private life has always been licentious: he frequently got involved with women. His decadent, landlord-class orientation became evident after liberation.... He protected the daughter of a landlord and had illicit relations with a woman comrade. Last year, a woman comrade was transferred to his Department to act as his secretary. When he went to Peiping to attend meetings of the Central Committee of the China New Democracy Youth Corps, he took her along and neglected to attend an important meeting.... This woman secretary, born and raised in a bourgeois family, changed her dress twice a day and adorned herself with cosmetics. Her capitalist father in Hong Kong sent money which Chou used for new suits and shoes. Chou entrusted her with secret documents....

"In the current campaign against corruption, waste, and bureaucracy, the entire personnel of the Religious Affairs Department request that the party severely punish such a degenerate. He has completely lost the qualifications of a CCP member."

(Shanghai, Chieh-fang Jih-pao, 11 Mar 52)

A personal history revealing ties with landlords or the urban bourgeoisie does not, in itself, appear to be adequate grounds for purging a member from the party. Constant indoctrination, criticism, and self-criticism could remold useful nonproletarian party members according to the following statement:

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"We know that our party sustains a pure proletarian ideology through the ability to carry through the indoctrination of party members in proletarian ideology and to use the weapons of criticism and self-criticism against non-proletarian ideas arising within the party. The great significance of indoctrination within the ranks lies in the fact that among the vast number of members who are of nonproletarian family origin, some may slide back into the 'propertied' mode of thinking if the party does not incessantly indoctrinate them. Since the party exists in a class society, should it interrupt this perpetual ideological training, the ideology of the bourgeoisie and petit bourgeois classes would corrupt its ranks even more, marring party purity and weakening its fighting elan....Clearing away this nonproletarian ideology remains the solemn responsibility now before our party members."

(Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, Party Life Section, 4 Dec 51)

According to the above examples, when a member has lost his usefulness to and endangers the stability of the party, his landlord family background is employed to attack him. In such cases, emphasizing the victim's "dangerous" social origin serves a multiple purpose:

1. It is vindictive: since a class war is taking place, the party is justified in expelling class enemies.
2. It is instructive: nonproletarian members are told to remold themselves completely and proletarian members are reminded that the true party orientation is a working class orientation.
3. It is definitive: it reaffirms the doctrine of an unshaken foundation, that is, so long as the party stands on the firm base of proletarian ideology and maintains ties with the masses, this base will remain solid, and progress in reconstruction and reform will be guaranteed.

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